Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (Cancelled)

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A hearing ~~aid~~ device comprising:

a digital signal processing unit having inputs and outputs;

self-contained peripheral hardware units operationally connected to said inputs and outputs of the digital signal processing unit;

an identification unit in at least one of said peripheral self-contained hardware units, the identification unit having an output and containing identification information of said at least one peripheral self-contained hardware unit;

a storage unit remote from said hardware unit containing identification information of more than one hardware peripheral unit and having an output;

a comparing unit remote from said hardware unit and having a first input, a second input, and an output, said output of said identification unit being operationally connected to the first input and said output of said

storage unit being operationally connected to the second input; and

a memory unit being operationally connected to the output of said comparing unit for storing the current configuration of said hearing ~~aid~~ device with respect to said peripheral self-contained hardware units.

Claim 13 (Previously presented): The device of claim 12, wherein the output of said comparing unit is operationally connected to a control input for the operation of said digital signal processing unit.

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Claim 14 (Previously presented): The device of claim 12, wherein said at least one of said self-contained peripheral hardware units and said digital signal processing unit is operationally connected via at least one data bus and interface unit.

Claim 15 (Previously presented): The device of claim 12, further comprising an output of said device which is operationally connected to an output of said memory unit.

Claim 16 (Previously presented): The device of claim 14, wherein said interface unit is one of a three-wire interface unit and a two-wire interface unit.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): The device of claim 12, further comprising at least a second of said at least one self-contained hardware peripheral units, and wherein:

said one of said self-contained hardware peripheral units treating audio signal components of said device and being operationally connected to said digital processing unit via a first data bus with first interface units; and

said second of said self-contained hardware peripheral units treating control signals of said hearing ~~aid~~ device and being operationally connected with said digital signal processing unit via a second data bus and second interface units.

Claim 18 (Previously presented): The device of claim 12, wherein said at least one peripheral self-contained hardware unit treats audio signal components of said hearing ~~aid~~ device and is operationally connected to said digital signal processing unit via a data bus with at least three-wire interface units.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): The device of claim 12, wherein said at least one hardware peripheral self-contained hardware unit treats control signals of said hearing ~~aid~~ device and is operationally connected to said

digital signal processing unit via a data bus with two-wire interface units.

Claim 20 (Previously presented): The device of claim 18, wherein said three-wire interface units are I^2S units.

Claim 21 (Previously presented): The device of claim 19, wherein said second interface units are I^2C units.

Claim 22 (Previously presented): The device of claim 12, wherein said one self-contained hardware peripheral unit is one of a sensor, an actuator, a transceiver, a manually operable selection switch unit, and a potentiometer.

Claim 23 (Previously presented): The device of claim 15, wherein said output of said device is an output of a transceiver.

Claim 24 (Currently amended): A method for manufacturing a hearing ~~aid~~ device, comprising the steps of:

providing a digital signal processing unit;

providing at least one self-contained peripheral hardware unit;

operationally connecting said peripheral self-contained hardware unit to said digital signal processing unit; and

automatically identifying said peripheral self-contained hardware unit; and

storing the current hardware configuration of the hearing ~~aid~~ device with respect to said peripheral units.

Claim 25 (Previously presented): The method of claim 24, further comprising a step of selecting an operational mode of said signal processing unit as a function of said current hardware configuration.

Claim 26 (Previously presented): The method of claim 24, further comprising a step of barring an operation of said digital signal processing unit which does not conform with said current hardware configuration.

Claim 27 (Previously presented): The method of claim 24, further comprising a step of providing interpretation of signals towards and/or from said digital signal processing unit as a function of said current hardware configuration.